



## SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

### **\$122.9 billion in Federal Funding Secured for Harvey Relief**

Since Hurricane Harvey devastated our community, Congress has acted to provide \$122.9 billion in total funds for disaster mitigation and flood control efforts. Congress passed, and the President signed into law, three federal funding bills:

1. \$89.3 billion in much needed funds for disaster recovery and future mitigation efforts, funds for FEMA and the SBA to allow them to continue providing disaster recovery services. This included funding to help build a third reservoir and begin studies and construction for improvements to Addicks and Barker.
2. \$18.6 billion in October to the Disaster Relief Fund and other DHS recovery programs.
3. \$15 billion in September to provide immediate funding to the Disaster Relief Fund and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development fund.

#### **Specifically, the most recent federal legislation included:**

- ✓ \$23.5 billion for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund, the primary funding source for immediate disaster response. The funding will support response and recovery efforts, including assistance to state, and local governments to cover total estimated needs from Hurricanes Harvey.
- ✓ \$17.39 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, largely targeted for projects to reduce the risk of future damages from flood and storm events. This money can be used for hazard mitigation projects such as a third (or potentially 4th) reservoir and improvements to existing infrastructure.
- ✓ Provides funds that can be used for dredging of existing waterways, such as the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston, and improvements to infrastructure at Lake Houston such as new storm gates.
- ✓ Expediting language that will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' projects to be accelerated and for construction to begin during the study phase avoiding long delays.
- ✓ \$28 billion for HUD's Community Development Fund to help communities rebuild damaged homes, buildings, and infrastructure. Local governments can use this fund to repair damaged infrastructure and harden it for future disasters.
- ✓ \$1.65 billion for the SBA's disaster loan program, and \$600 million for the Dept. of Commerce's Economic Development Administration grants that fund immediate relief efforts and long-term recovery projects in affected communities. Local businesses can use this money to aid in their recovery.
- ✓ \$2.46 billion to restart operations at elementary and secondary schools, such as Kingwood High School, and to help students displaced by the disaster.
- ✓ \$93.5 million to help the VA repair damaged hospitals and facilities.
- ✓ Language to ensure that religious nonprofit organizations are given the same opportunity to qualify for certain disaster assistance as their secular counterparts.

Now that this federal funding has been approved by Congress and signed into law by the President, it is allocated to the states, and it is up to our state and local government officials to act quickly to ensure that these funds are used to help our community recovery and prevent future damage. I remain committed to helping our state and local elected officials however I can to ensure that this money is distributed quickly and appropriately to much-needed, common sense projects, including those that help rebuild the Lake Houston community and consider lowering the water levels at Lake Conroe.